

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Mme. de Gaulle May Jar Protocol

By Drew Pearson

In Paris at the would-be summit conference the official luncheon for the heads of state was abruptly canceled by President de Gaulle. So were all other social functions. This prevented Madame de Gaulle from carrying out a novel idea which she proposed in Washington regarding the boredom of sitting beside certain people.



Pearson

At the White House dinner in honor of de Gaulle, the First Lady of France found herself seated beside Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas.

While Mme. de Gaulle is a great admirer of the democratic processes, she discovered that she and the Speaker had few interests in common—not even the same language. Mr. Sam was not enthusiastic about Paris, which he has never visited, and Mme. de Gaulle was not enthusiastic about Texas which she knew only through American movies. Yet protocol requires that guests of rank sit beside guests of equal rank.

Finally Mme. de Gaulle remarked to the protocol officer:

"You know, this question of protocol is a terrible thing.

In Paris I find myself seated beside the same person at dinner after dinner without too much in common to talk about.

"But," she continued, "I have an idea. We should have a lottery to decide where we should sit at these official dinners. The men, as they came to dinner, could pull a number out of a red hat. It could be placed right near the door. And the women could pull a number out of a blue hat. Then they could match their numbers and thus decide beside whom they would sit at dinner."

"However," sighed the First Lady of France, "I don't know whether I have enough strength to charge the bastions of protocol at this late date."

Paid Foreign Agent

Sen. Tom Dodd, the former FBI agent from Connecticut, might well remember that people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. Dodd castigated Cyrus Eaton, the Cleveland industrialist, for chatting with Khrushchev at the Paris airport, accused Eaton of meddling in foreign policy illegally as an agent of the United States.

Ironical fact is that Dodd himself was once a registered agent for a foreign country—Guatemala—and when a mem-

ber of the House of Representatives offered an amendment to the foreign aid bill, providing \$5 million aid for the country which later paid him.

All this was revealed in a sharp debate between Sen. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) and Dodd (D-Conn.) during the debate to earmark \$50 million of foreign aid for dictator Franco and Spain. The Spanish lobby, headed by Charles Patrick Clark, paid agent for Franco, and Congressman John Rooney of Brooklyn, was working with Dodd to wangle \$50 million through the Congress for Franco.

Senator Fulbright raised a point of order. Hotly, Senator Dodd upbraided Fulbright for opposing aid for an ally against communism while opposing a ban on the seating of Red China in the United Nations.

'I Object'

Fulbright can be acid in debate. Icily he asked Dodd:

"Will the Senator from Connecticut be good enough to tell the Senate about the \$5 million for Guatemala? He knows about it."

Dodd explained that while a member of the House of Representatives he had offered an amendment to a bill to provide aid for Guatemala that he thought then it was a

good amendment and still thinks so.

"Was the Senator from Connecticut retained by Guatemala by any chance?" asked Fulbright.

"I think that was unkind," replied Dodd. "I object to that insinuation."

Dodd could not deny that he had been the paid agent of Guatemala for this fact is duly recorded in the public records of the Justice Department. He got paid at the rate of \$50,000 a year after he left the House, and resigned only the day after he was elected to the U. S. Senate, Nov. 5, 1958.

"And I don't like your insinuation that I was soft on communism," retorted the Senator from Arkansas. "I consider that unkind too."

"I did not say that," retorted Dodd, "but I consider your remarks an insult and I ask that they be withdrawn."

Fulbright agreed—provided Dodd withdrew his remarks about Fulbright; so you won't find this in the Congressional Record. And Senator Dodd seemed to have forgotten about it, when he castigated Cyrus Eaton for acting without authority as the agent of the U. S. by talking to Mr. K.

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Drew Pearson will disclose congressional plans to investigate White House Press Secretary C. Hagerly on May 25 tonight.